

# MAID OF THE LOCH NEWSLETTER



JULY 2023 Issue 42  
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LLSC Bow Crest presented at the most recent PSPS AGM

We are delighted to announce receipt of a substantial grant from the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society, with its worldwide membership once more supporting the restoration of our Maid.

Along with another recent award from Barr Environmental Ltd through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund, combined funding will allow completion of work to the hull making her watertight.

To top it all off, at its AGM, the Scottish Branch of PSPS made payment for the redesign and production of a new bow crest which will be installed once the new hull coating has been applied.

This photo shows how she used to look and how she will look once more, while the main photo shows the new crest in all its glory. Ruth Davies, who is a highly regarded wood carver, manufactured the new crest using old images of the original and Jim McGregor, the ship's painter, did the paintwork.





# RESTORATION ROUND UP...

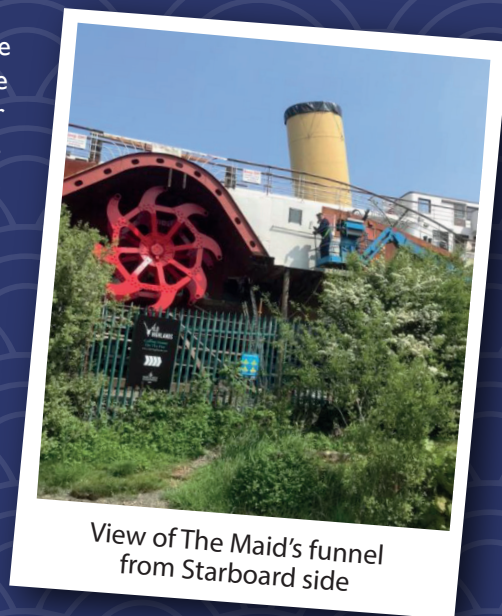


Volunteer Charles Inglis working hard

We have just received another note from Jötun Paints confirming the supply of more Jotamastic primer for the hull. This 2-pack coating is superb and as you may have seen, the funnel and observation deck has been coated and are looking rather good, as is our senior volunteer, Charles!

The first of the new gardenia finish is currently being applied to the wheelhouse and upperworks, so you will see a difference shortly. We still do not have the funds to blast clean the port side, but we will take the finished colour around the bow, to allow us to affix the new logo.

We have also now set up a Technical Operations Committee, consisting of five technically oriented directors and ship volunteers who are looking at the best options available for continuing the hull restoration.



View of The Maid's funnel from Starboard side

## PADDLE UPDATE

The Maid's test-fitted number 1 paddle float is now fully drilled and bolted in a day and a half by this great paddle team. There will be a pause while they complete repairs to the springbeam pockets then they start on paddle float number 2. The starboard side should be completed this summer apart from the new fan and belting for which we need to find some funding. Doesn't it look cracking though?



Hammy, Eddie, Bill and George happy with the progress



Starboard paddle float close up





# THE ASSOCIATION FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The Association of Industrial Archaeology (AIA) has confirmed that PS Maid of the Loch has been awarded a £7,200 restoration grant for the hydraulic steering engine. This is most welcome news and more details and photos of the progress to follow soon. The AIA is delighted to be supporting our project.



# ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT MUSEUMS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our Programme Manager Charli Summers and our colleagues at GO Industrial attended the annual conference at the Surgeons Hall in Edinburgh this year. The focus of the Museum Sector is on partnership, inclusion, community, wellbeing, and volunteer welfare.



Ross at Grampian Transport and Nicola at National Mining Museum with Charli

HMS Unicorn gave a great seminar presentation on their successful volunteer programme, Wave Makers, and going forward we hope to change our existing model to be more efficient. We are on the lookout for weekend volunteer guides so please get in touch if you can spare a couple of days per month to help us with visitors to the site.

# MEMORIES ARE MAID OF THIS...

We are looking for people to get involved with our forthcoming dementia and heritage legacy project.

WED 20TH SEPT

Our Programme Manager Charli is going to be working with local dementia groups and care homes to capture PS Maid of the Loch stories that are at risk of being lost forever. The project will focus on memory rather than illness so anyone can get involved!

Do you or your loved ones want to join us in September for our Winch house Wednesday memory sharing event?

If so, please contact [charli.summers@maidoftheloch.org](mailto:charli.summers@maidoftheloch.org) for further information.





# GREAT BRITISH RAILWAYS JOURNEYS

The popular BBC TV series contacted us to ask if they could film the ship and the winch house and we were more than happy to oblige. Michael Portillo, a real enthusiast, was delighted to meet the crew and operate the historic winch house with volunteer George Gerc! As most of you will know the series features Portillo travelling around the railway networks of Great Britain, Ireland, and the Isle of Man.

The series will be aired next year, and we will let you know closer to the time.



## FIT FOR A KING



We were delighted to be invited to the King's Garden Party at Holyrood this year to represent the important community work we are doing. Our Fab Four all scrubbed up for the King's Garden Party at Holyrood. It's a shame the weather didn't put on quite such a good show as our crew but a big thank you to Misty, David, Jim and Charli for representing the Maid and all the volunteers. Lots of cucumber sandwiches and genteel teas were enjoyed!

## CHO-CHO THOMAS!

Speaking of railways - our dedicated volunteers Stan and Katrina Waddington have been volunteering occasional weekends with the East Lancashire Railways and here is a photo of them taking a well-earned break from stewarding for Thomas the Tank Engine. Visitors can climb aboard a carriage and go on a journey through the countryside on a fun-filled journey to Ramsbottom before returning to Bury.

<https://www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk/>





# PS COOLSVILLE

The Maid of the Loch marked 70 years of proud heritage in May with a 1950s-themed party weekend. The party included hard hat tours, a 1950s craft station making records and diner milkshakes, vintage double decker bus tours around the town, classic cars, live music and fire engine crews with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Heritage Trust.

Others who took part included Knightswood Model Boat Club, Boogie Box Jive, Frank McCracken FM Music, Alexandria Mandolin Band, and singer David Denet.

The event was a huge success raising just under £2000 for the restoration project.

The photos from the weekend speak for themselves and a huge thank you to everyone involved and who visited. The vintage double decker bus tours were extremely popular!



# SWASHBUCKLING AT THE MAID

Prepare to walk the plank with a pirate themed weekend of games, crafts, and Treasure Hunt. Adults go free. Children £6 which includes activities and crafts. It is a Pirates Life for Wild Highlands Pier Cafe and PS Maid of the Loch, Savvy?! Join us to celebrate this fun filled weekend and Shiver Me Timbers! Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite or on the door.



**Prepare to Walk the Plank!**

## SWASHBUCKLING AT THE MAID

A Pirate Themed Weekend

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August  
11-4pm

Adults go FREE!  
Children £6 on door or via Eventbrite

PS Maid of the Loch, Balloch & Wild Highlands Pier Café

**Ahoy Matey!**



- Treasure Hunt
- Fancy Dress
- Crafts
- Games
- Face Painting
- Cakes

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/swashbuckling-at-the-maid-a-pirate-themed-weekend-tickets-671030729977>





# VOLUNTEER FOCUS

## PAUL SANDERS

Drymen-based Paul Saunders Marketing has worked with the Maid of the Loch for many years.

Paul's first involvement was a video supporting a funding application featuring historical footage. The amazing old clips of the Maid sailing were so special that Paul produced a longer DVD film charting the steamer's history.

Paul's films have supported other appeals and funding grant applications, it has kept him close to the restoration and the team. Paul also created the Maid's website, helping to keep it up to date and to allow the public to support through donations and to purchase items from its shop.

It's not just the Maid that Paul is a fan of; he loves Loch Lomond & The Trossachs and is behind the successful See Loch Lomond website, a guide for people visiting the National Park. Paul also works with our friends at Loch Katrine, who have just completed a restoration of the 123-year-old Steamship Sir Walter Scott. Paul worked on their £750,000 S.O.S. (Save our Steamship) appeal, creating media and public interest and working on grant applications; having seen first-hand the incredible impact of the returning Steamship, Sir Walter Scott. Paul, like us all, would love to see the Maid of the Loch back in action on Loch Lomond.



## THE SHIP STOKER

Stunning painting by Glasgow based artist, Peter Thomson, for sale.

The Life Aquatic exhibition continues, and all items are for sale. For those who cannot make it along this year please find the exhibition carousel online at": <https://www.maidoftheloch.org/life-aquatic>

All sales go towards supporting both artists and the restoration project.

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

TAKEN BY SUPPORTER OWEN PHILLIPS

"I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and was pleased to see the progress being made. I have attached a copy of a colour slide which I took in July 1972 of PS Maid of the Loch arriving at Tarbet."



PS Maid of the Loch Tarbet 1972

(c) O I Phillips 2023



# MERCHANDISE AT THE MAID

Many of you have been admiring and purchasing works from Rosneath based wood turner Maggie Irving who has created these unique and elegantly carved items for us using wood from the Maid's old paddle floats.



# TRACY THOMSON



Tracy is a Balloch based artist experimenting in various mediums on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond. She is now selling some of her work in our Museum cabin – items that have been inspired by Scotland's landscapes, textures, and energy.

# WILD HIGHLANDS COFFEE AT THE PIER WINS AWARD FOR BEST NEW BUSINESS!



Well done to the team for winning the prestigious Scotland's Business Awards for best new business at the fancy affair at the Crowne Plaza, Glasgow. Make sure you make your next stop for a coffee at the pier.



# MAID OF THE LOCH



**MAID OF THE LOCH** [www.maidoftheloch.org](http://www.maidoftheloch.org)  
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